

**WINCHESTER TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 6, 2009**

A special meeting of the Winchester Tree Commission was held on Friday, March 6, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Administration Building at City Yards.

Mr. Farris, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Members present: Ms. Allison Major, Ms. Kate Christen and Mr. Patrick Farris

Members absent: Ms. Chris Scully, Ms. Mary Stickley and Mr. T'ai Roulston

Staff present: Clint Cantrell, Tim Stern, Tom Hoy and Perry Eisenach

Guests present: Mr. Jim Lawrence and Ms. Jessica Burchard

- 1) Mr. Jim Lawrence of the Natural Resources Advisory Board stated that he is present to represent the Opequon Watershed. Mr. Lawrence stated that the Opequon Watershed is having their third annual tree planting. Mr. Lawrence stated that they are going to do an additional planting at Fort Collier Industrial Park and two sites that they are working with Winchester Public Schools, the Public Works Department and Ms. Kelly Henshaw. The two sites in the city are behind Frederick Douglass Elementary along the slopes of the drainage ditch and behind Charlotte DeHart Elementary along the slope of the drainage ditch to prevent further erosion. Mr. Lawrence stated that where suitable they would also plant shrubs. Mr. Lawrence stated that the plantings will take place on Saturday, March 28, 2009. Mr. Lawrence stated that they are focusing on school sites this year to attract students to the project. Mr. Lawrence stated that part of the project is to improve water quality. Mr. Lawrence stated that he attended the meeting to pitch the project to the Tree Commission and to get their endorsement. Mr. Lawrence passed out a list of trees and shrubs that they plan to use. Mr. Farris stated that he would suggest consulting the property owners and the Handley Board of Trustees and the Arborist to make sure the tree species are OK. Mr. Farris stated that the planting list has been modified to be contingent on location.

Old Business:

1) Discussion of Tree Removal/Trimming requests (Continued from February)

Tom Hoy made remarks concerning the tree removals for the 2-way project and discussed the tree commission process.

Mr. Farris made a motion to place all of the Bradford Pear trees and Sweet Gum trees on the review list, which are eight out of the sixteen, on a single motion to approve for

removal pertaining to the Tree Commission policy for those two species; seconded by Ms. Major, motion was approved.

Across from 214 E. Piccadilly Street

Ms. Major made a motion to remove the tree located across from 214 E. Piccadilly Street; seconded by Ms. Christen, motion was approved.

208 E. Piccadilly Street

Mr. Farris made a motion to remove the tree located at 208 E. Piccadilly Street; seconded by Ms. Major, motion was approved.

Across from 206 E. Piccadilly Street

Mr. Farris made a motion to remove the tree located across from 206 E. Piccadilly Street; seconded by Ms. Major, motion was approved.

130 W. Piccadilly Street

Ms. Major made a motion to table the tree located at 130 W. Piccadilly Street until the May meeting; seconded by Mr. Farris, motion was approved.

117 N. Braddock Street

Mr. Farris made a motion to trim the tree located at 117 N. Braddock Street and to deny removal; seconded by Ms. Major, motion was approved.

105 N. Braddock Street

Mr. Farris made a motion to table the tree located at 105 N. Braddock Street until the May meeting; seconded by Ms. Major, motion was approved.

124 S. Braddock Street

Mr. Farris made a motion to remove the tree located at 124 S. Braddock Street; seconded by Ms. Christen, motion was approved.

Beside 124 S. Braddock Street

Ms. Christen made a motion to remove the tree located beside 124 S. Braddock Street; seconded by Ms. Major, motion was approved.

New Business:

Ms. Christen made a motion to endorse the Opequon Watershed tree planting project;

seconded by Ms. Major, motion was approved.

Comments from Commission Members:

- 1) Mr. Farris stated that the Tree Commission would approve the minutes for the February meeting and this special meeting at the regularly scheduled March meeting.

Mr. Farris stated after Tom Hoy's comments that the City could not operate without the excellent service provided by staff such as Tom. Mr. Farris stated that he personally appreciates Tom's attention to detail in making the announcement and for forwarding the project of Council's. Mr. Farris stated that Council voted to approve the two-way project for Cameron Street and Braddock Street and the staff were simply implementing that decision.

Mr. Farris stated that the Tree Commission has a policy that automatically places the site of a tree removal on the replant list. Mr. Farris stated that he would like to suggest suspending that policy for the trees that were reviewed at this meeting until the Tree Commission can review the overall site plan as submitted by Perry Eisenach towards the end of the project.

Mr. Farris reminded the members that since there was not a quorum at this meeting that what they voted on was a series of recommendations to the City Manager for him to follow considering these specific trees.

- 2) Ms. Major stated that the Arbor Day Ceremony will be held at Handley High School on Friday, April 24th. Ms. Major stated that the Handley Restoration Landscape Committee is very excited about having the Arbor Day Ceremony at Handley so that they can explain and talk about the trees on the Handley campus. Ms. Major stated that the Garden Club of Virginia is going to make a recommendation regarding species and where to plant the tree.

Comments from City Staff:

- 1) Tom stated that he would like to welcome Ms. Christen as the new member of the Tree Commission.
- 2) Perry Eisenach stated that the City will be replacing all of the water and sewer mains and all of the water and sewer service lines for each individual house or business. Perry stated that all of the sidewalks will be replaced after the water and sewer lines are replaced. Perry stated that if there were unhealthy trees that the staff wanted to remove them before starting the project.

Perry stated that the water and sewer lines and sidewalks will be replaced on Cameron Street and Braddock Street from Fairfax Lane to Gerrard Street. Perry

stated that once this is finished they will know where all of the lines are located and wherever there is a good spot to plant a tree, they will put in a tree well and plant a tree. Perry stated that on the Cork Street portion of the project they removed ten bad trees and planted forty-seven. Perry stated that several of the larger trees that will be removed for the project will be replaced with larger caliper trees.

Adjourn:

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Farris made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Major, the meeting was adjourned.